

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving information from a document collection, the method comprising:

generating a compound logical form query from a user query, the compound logical form query having at least two logical form triples connected by a restrictive operator;

applying the compound logical form query to a logical form triple index of a document collection to form a set of logic-based search results;

generating a word query based on words in the user query;

applying the word query to a word index of the document collection to form a set of word-based search results;—and

intersecting the logic-based search results with the word-based search results to form a set of filtered compound results;—

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generating a standard logical form triple query by connecting a set of logical form triples with non-restrictive operators;

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applying the standard logical form triple query to the logical form triple index of the document collection to form a second set of logic-based search results;

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intersecting the word-based search results with the second set of logic-based search results to form a set of filtered standard results; and

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returning the filtered compound results and the filtered standard results to the user with the

filtered compound results ranked higher than the  
filtered standard results.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein generating a compound logical form query comprises:

determining the restrictiveness of a set of logical form triples identified from the user query; and combining logical form triples so as to limit the restrictiveness of the compound logical form query formed from the set of logical form triples.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein generating a word query comprises identifying important words in the user query and placing the important words in the word query.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13~~6~~ further comprising:

generating a second word query based on words in the user query;  
applying the second word query to the word index to form a second set of word-based search results;  
and  
intersecting the second set of word-based search results with the filtered standard results to form further filtered standard results.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising returning the filtered compound results, the further filtered standard results and the filtered standard results to the user with the filtered compound results ranked above the further

filtered standard results and the further filtered standard results ranked above the filtered standard results.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing information retrieval steps comprising:

- performing a logic-based search of a document collection using logical form triples created from a user query to create logic-based search results, performing the logic-based search comprising forming a compound logical form query by identifying at least two logical form triples from the user query and connecting at least two of the logical form triples with a restrictive operator, and using the compound logical form query to search the document collection;

- performing a word-based search of the document collection using words taken from the user query to create word-based search results; and
- intersecting the logic-based search results and the word-based search results to form filtered search results;

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- performing a standard logic-based search of the document collection by identifying at least two logical form triples from the user query, connecting each of the identified logical form triples together using non-restrictive operators to form a standard logical form triple query, and searching the document collection using the standard logical form triple query to form standard logic-based search results;

intersecting the standard logic-based search results  
with the word-based search results to form  
filtered standard search results; and  
returning the filtered search results and the filtered  
standard search results to the user with the  
filtered search results ranked higher than the  
filtered standard search results.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein performing a word-based search comprises identifying important words in the user query and using only the important words in the word-based search.

22-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23  
20 wherein the information retrieval steps further comprise:  
performing a second word-based search of the document  
collection to form second word-based search  
results; and  
intersecting the second word-based search results with  
the filtered standard search results to form  
further filtered standard search results.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 25 wherein the information retrieval steps further comprise returning the filtered search results, the filtered standard search results, and the further filtered standard search results to the user with the filtered search results ranked higher than the further filtered standard search results and the further filtered standard search results ranked higher than the filtered standard search results.